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THE MATTHEWS FIRM 2000 BERING DRIVE SUITE 700 HOUSTON, TX 77057			EXAMINER COLBERT, ELLA	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4, 15, 22-25, 34, 51, 54, 64, and 65 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended in this communication filed 03/07/07 entered as Supplemental Response.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because Figure 8C the text is not legible and Figures 9B, 16C-16L and 19B have a similar problem. Also, some of the drawings have for example "1/56", etc. on the drawing page and other drawings do not have any "49/56 -56/56" at the top of the drawing figures. FIG. 19A" needs to be moved further down on the page because it is in part of the drawing figure and FIG. 19 D and FIG. 19F have a similar problem. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the

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examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The Specification is objected to because it is noted the Substitute Specification submitted on 9/25/06 has at least 40 pages of amendments. A new Specification in its entirety needs to be submitted because it is very difficult to read and to be able to determine where all of the amendments should be inserted. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 1, lines 8 and 9 recite "notifying the seller of any discrepancy, wherein upon notice of the any ...". This limitation would be better recited as "notifying the seller of any discrepancy, wherein upon notice of any ...". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1, 51, and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1, is unclear and vague who or what and whether it is a device or buyer (customer) obtaining the estimated data from any source, comparing actual data to the estimated data and notifying the seller of any discrepancy.

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Claim 51, it is unclear and vague who or what is receiving "the at least one first response" and "the at least one second response", comparing the at least one first response" and "presenting the comparison to the buyer". Is the "buyer receiving the first response" and "the second response", "comparing the first response", or is the seller the one who is performing these steps or is some device performing the steps? Is it the seller or some device presenting the comparison to the buyer?

Claims 22 and 64 are clear as written because it is understood who and what is doing each step.

Claim 65 is unclear as to what Applicant means by "a first incidence of the at least one seller interface" and "at least one second seller through a second interface".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claims 1-4, 15, 22-25, 34, 51, 54, 64, and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Under the Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility, a claimed invention must satisfy the requirement that it be directed to a "practical application," which is to mean "the claimed invention physically transforms an article or physical object to a different state or thing, or ... the claimed invention otherwise produces a useful, concrete and tangible result". If a claim satisfies those questions, then the claim describes eligible subject matter.

In the instant case, the claimed invention does not physically transform an article or a physical object to a different state or thing since the claim is not directed to an article or physical object. Therefore, a relevant test to determine if the eligibility requirement is met is whether the claimed invention as a whole is limited to a useful concrete and tangible result.

The following definitions are used as guidelines in determining whether the claimed invention produces a useful, concrete and tangible result, as discussed in MPEP 2106 IV C (2).

Useful- must be specific, substantial and credible and specifically recited in the claim. If the claim is broad enough to not require a practical application, it must be rejected.

Tangible –must be some “real-world” result, not abstract.

Concrete –must have a result that can be substantially repeatable or the process must substantially produce the same result again.

Claim 1 recites the steps for obtaining estimated data from any source, receiving the actual data from the seller, comparing the actual data to the estimated data to determine a discrepancy between the actual and estimated data, and notifying the seller if there is a discrepancy with the seller accounting for the discrepancy. The method of obtaining estimated data and actual data and making a comparison and determining a discrepancy and accounting for the discrepancy is considered a manipulation of data and performs no concrete, useful or tangible result. Claims 22 and 51 have a similar problem.

Claims 2-4 and 15 inherit the limitations of the parent claim and are therefore rejected as addressed above for claim 1.

Claim 22 has a similar problem as addressed above for claim 1 because no result is achieved at the end of the process. The estimated and actual data and determining a discrepancy and accounting for the discrepancy does not produce a concrete, useful, or tangible result.

Claims 23-25 and 34 15 inherit the limitations of the parent claim and are therefore rejected as addressed above for claim 22.

Claim 51 has a similar problem as addressed above in independent claims 1 and 22.

Claim 54 inherits the limitations of the parent claim and are therefore rejected as addressed above for claim 51.

Claim 64 has a similar problem as addressed above for independent claims 1, 22, and 51.

Claim 65 inherits the limitations of the parent claim and are therefore rejected as addressed above for claim 64.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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10. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by "Primavera and PurchasePro. Com" (Business Wire, 9/21/99).

Claim 1. "Primavera and PurchasePro. Com" discloses A process for reconciling actual data with estimated data within a workflow process for a project ordered by a buyer and performed by a seller, the method comprising:
obtaining the estimated data from any source relating to the project; receiving the actual data from the seller via a communication network; comparing the actual data to the estimated data to determine any discrepancy between the actual data and the estimated data; and notifying the buyer of any discrepancy, wherein upon notice of the any discrepancy the buyer can account for the any discrepancy. Primavera and PurchasePro.com disclose obtaining the estimated data from different manufacturers for a construction project, receiving the actual data from a seller via the Internet (a communications network) (Page 1-Page 2, line 15); comparing the actual data to the estimated data for any discrepancy (page 2, lines 22-27) and notifying the seller of any discrepancy ..." (page 2, lines 28-35). It is considered inherent to notify the seller of any discrepancy and for the discrepancy to be accounted for by the seller.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12. Claims 2-4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Primavera and PurchasePro.com and (US 5,826,244) Huberman.

Claim 2. Primavera and PurchasePro.com failed to disclose, A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual data comprises an actual cost , in whole or in part, of either goods or services or goods and goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the project. Huberman discloses, A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual data comprises an actual cost ,

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in whole or in part, of either goods or services or goods and goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the project (col. 11, lines 4-15).

Claim 3. Primavera and PurchasePro.com discloses, A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual data comprises an actual accounting un whole or in part of either goods or services, or goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the project (page 1, paragraph 8).

Claim 4. Primavera and PurchasePro.com failed to disclose, A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual data comprises at least one measurement of at least one parameter defining at least one aspect of the project. Huberman discloses A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual data comprises at least one measurement of at least one parameter defining at least one aspect of the project (col. 14, lines 4-30).

Claim 15. Primavera and PurchasePro.com failed to disclose A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the workflow process generates at least one request for either at least one good or at least one service, or at least one good and at least one service to be provided by the seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter. Huberman discloses, A process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the workflow process generates at least one request for either at least one good or at least one service, or at least one good and at least one service to be provided by the seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter (col. 13, line 54-col. 14, line 46).

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Primavera and PurchasePro.com discloses, wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the seller (page 2, paragraph 2 and paragraph 3, and paragraph 5-paragraph 7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

14. Claims 22-25, 34, 51, 54, 64, and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 5,826,244) Huberman in view of (US 4,903,201) Wagner.

Claim 22. Huberman discloses, A workflow system for reconciling actual data compiled for a project by a seller with estimated data for the project, the project ordered by a buyer and performed by the seller, the workflow system comprising:
a first interface for interacting with at least one buyer (col. 6, lines 5-19 and lines 44-56);
a second interface for interacting with at least one seller (col. 5, line 59-col. 6, line 4 and col. 8, line 66-col. 9, line 23). Huberman failed to disclose, a memory for storing the estimated data and the actual data, wherein the actual data is received from the seller field device via the second interface; and a processor controlling the memory, the first interface and the second interface, wherein the processor compares the actual data to the estimated data to determine any discrepancy between the actual data and the estimated data, and wherein the processor notifies the buyer via the first interface of the any discrepancy. Wagner discloses, a memory for storing the estimated data and the actual data, wherein the actual data is received from the seller field device via the second interface; and a processor controlling the memory, the first interface and the second interface, wherein the processor compares the actual data to the estimated data to determine any discrepancy between the actual data and the estimated data, and wherein the processor notifies the buyer via the first interface of the any discrepancy (col. 9, line 50-col. 10, line 67). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill

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in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Wagner in Huberman because such an incorporation would allow Huberman to have an accounting process with the components of a system for an accurate business environment.

Claim 23. Huberman discloses, A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 22 wherein the actual data comprises an actual cost in whole or in part, of either goods or services or goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the project (col. 12, line 10-43).

Claim 24. Huberman discloses, A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 22 wherein the actual data comprises an actual quantity in whole or in part, of either goods or services or goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the project (col. 13, line 54-col. 14, line 30).

Claim 25. Huberman discloses, A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 22, wherein the actual data comprises at least one measurement of at least one parameter defining at least one aspect of the project (col. 14, lines 31-46).

Claim 34. Huberman discloses, A workflow system for reconciling as described in claim 22 wherein the workflow system further comprises a system for implementing a process to generate at least one request for either at least one good or at least one service or at least one good and at least one service to be provided by the seller to the buyer for the project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request', and wherein the system communicates the at least one request to the seller

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(col. 9, lines 24-53, col. 11, lines 4-15, col. 13, line 40-col. 14, line 30, and col. 18, line 23).

Claim 51. Huberman discloses, A process in a workflow system for comparing a first response to at least one second response, the first and at least one second responses responsive to at least one request by a buyer for at least one good/service for a project, the process comprising: receiving the first response at the workflow system via a communication network (col. 3, line 59-col. 4, line 30); receiving the at least one second response at the workflow system via the communication network (col. 4, lines 31-44); comparing the first response to the at least one second response (col. 4, line 45-col. 5, line 32); and presenting the comparison to the buyer through an interface with a buyer system via the communication network (col. 8, line 66-col. 9, line 53 and col. 10, lines 6-35). This independent claim is also rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 22.

Claim 54. Huberman discloses, A process in a workflow system for comparing as described in claim 51, wherein the first response is provided by a first seller through an interface with a first seller system via the communication network, and the at least one second response is provided by at least one second seller through an interface with at least one second seller system via the communication network (col. 12, line 44-col. 13, line 38).

Claim 64. Huberman discloses, A workflow system for comparing a first response to at least one second response, the first and at least one second responses responsive

to at least one request by a buyer for either at least one good or service, or at least one good and at least one service for a project, the workflow system comprising:
a buyer interface (col. 10, lines 22-35 and line 62-col.11, line 15); at least one seller interface for receiving the first response and the at least one second response from at least one seller (col. 9, lines 2-23 and col. 10, lines 6-21). This independent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 22.

Claim 65. Huberman discloses, A workflow system for comparing as described in claim 64, wherein the first response is provided by a first seller through a first incidence of the at least one seller interface, and the at least one second response is provided by at least one second seller through a second incidence of the at least one seller interface (col. 13, lines 14-53).

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Oliver (US 5,907,490) disclosed project management and assessment.

Inquiries

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 571-272-6741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 5:30AM-3:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

May 29, 2007


ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER